

February 9, 2009
East Lyme Charter Revision Commission
Regular Meeting Minutes

Members Present: Len Goldberg
Robert Tobin
Tony Attanasio
Michael Foley
James Andersen
Carole Green
Christopher Sandford

I. Call to Order. Chairman Goldberg called the February 9, 2009 East Lyme Charter Revision Commission Meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance. The Pledge of Allegiance was observed.

III. Approval of Minutes of January 26, 2009. Chairman Goldberg asked for additions, deletions or corrections to the January 26, 2009 Charter Revision Commission Meeting Minutes.

MOTION: Mr. Sandford moved to approve the January 26, 2009 Charter Revision Commission Meeting Minutes, as presented. Seconded by Mr. Tobin. James Anderson abstained from voting. (6-0-1) Motion carried.

IV. Delegations. First Selectman Paul Formica reported Governor Rell has proposed a reduction in funding for the Resident Trooper Program in Fiscal Year 2009-2010. East Lyme is in the Resident Trooper Program and the Town pays 70% of its cost. He stated there may come a point in time where it makes sense to regionalize.

The Town of Ledyard has proposed to have an independent Police Department. They have a similar number of police officers as East Lyme. Some years ago they changed the Charter to make the process easier. No Police Commission has been proposed for Ledyard.

Mr. Tobin stated there would be a need for a detention facility. Mr. Formica replied if we were an independent Police Department we would contract out for a detention facility. We can regionalize. Gov. Rell is encouraging regionalization.

Mr. Goldberg asked if there have been discussions between East Lyme and other towns. Mr. Formica replied to date this has not been discussed with other towns.

Mr. Tobin felt there was something in the Stimulus Package regarding law enforcement.

Mr. Formica agreed to have information for review by this Commission by its March meeting.

Mr. Sandford asked how much does a Resident Trooper cost? Mr. Formica replied \$121, 00, plus over time, less 30%. We are requesting in this year's budget a fifth Sergeant position. The Sergeant would be an active police officer.

V. New Business. Mr. Foley did not feel it was necessary to have language in the Charter regarding an independent Police Department.

Mr. Anderson did not feel an independent Police Department should be dealt with through the Charter. He felt this would allow flexibility for the Board of Selectmen to respond to this matter.

Mr. Attanasio felt this Commission should review the language in Charter of the Town of Ledyard concerning this matter. He agreed to review this language.

Mr. Sandford stated §3.3.2 gives the Board of Selectmen powers under the Charter.

VI. Old Business

a. Review of Initial Draft of Final Report. Mr. Foley gave Commission members copies of a revised draft of the Final Report. Mr. Tobin's comments were incorporated in the revised draft.

Mr. Sandford suggested that areas that were rejected should be worded in a consistent manner.

Mr. Tobin felt the draft was a very good summary of the work of this Commission.

Mr. Tobin spoke with Ed O'Connell regarding §8. He felt this section should be left alone. Mr. Foley stated this item came to this Commission through the Town Clerk.

Mr. Goldberg felt it was a good idea to indicate the thinking of this Commission once an item was rejected. Ms. Green felt this would give residents an opportunity to understand why the Commission rejected it.

Mr. Anderson felt this Commission will need to address comments at a Public Hearing.

Mr. Tobin felt the report should be clear. Mr. Goldberg felt it was necessary for residents to see how complicated it is to change.

Mr. Sandford suggested that the language added in item 5, on page 2, paragraph 3 be changed to three members rather than two. It was suggested that it state a minority, rather than give a vote.

Ms. Green stated the Town Clerk gave a recommendation regarding constables. Mr. Foley agreed to prepare a final version of this report by the next meeting of this Commission. Mr. Tobin agreed to look at the statutory process.

The Commission must hold two public hearings, one after the draft report is completed and one after review by the Board of Selectmen. It was felt the public should have an opportunity to review the draft report.

The Commission suggested tentatively scheduling the Public Hearing for March 9. This date is to be confirmed at the next meeting of this Commission.

Mr. Sandford asked if this Commission feels the definition section should be eliminated? Mr. Tobin stated Town Attorney should give his input by the next meeting of this Commission.

Ms. Green felt it is important to inform residents that meeting minutes of this Commission are available on the Town website.

Mr. Foley and Mr. Tobin were thanked for their efforts on this draft report.

VII. Public Comments. There were no public comments.

VIII. Preparation of Agenda for 2/23/09 Meeting. The February 23 Agenda was prepared.

IX. Adjournment.

MOTION: Mr. Foley moved to adjourn the February 9, 2009
East Lyme Charter Revision Commission Meeting
at 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Mr. Sandford. (7-0)
Unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Frances Gheri, Recording Secretary